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THE Livestock and Meat SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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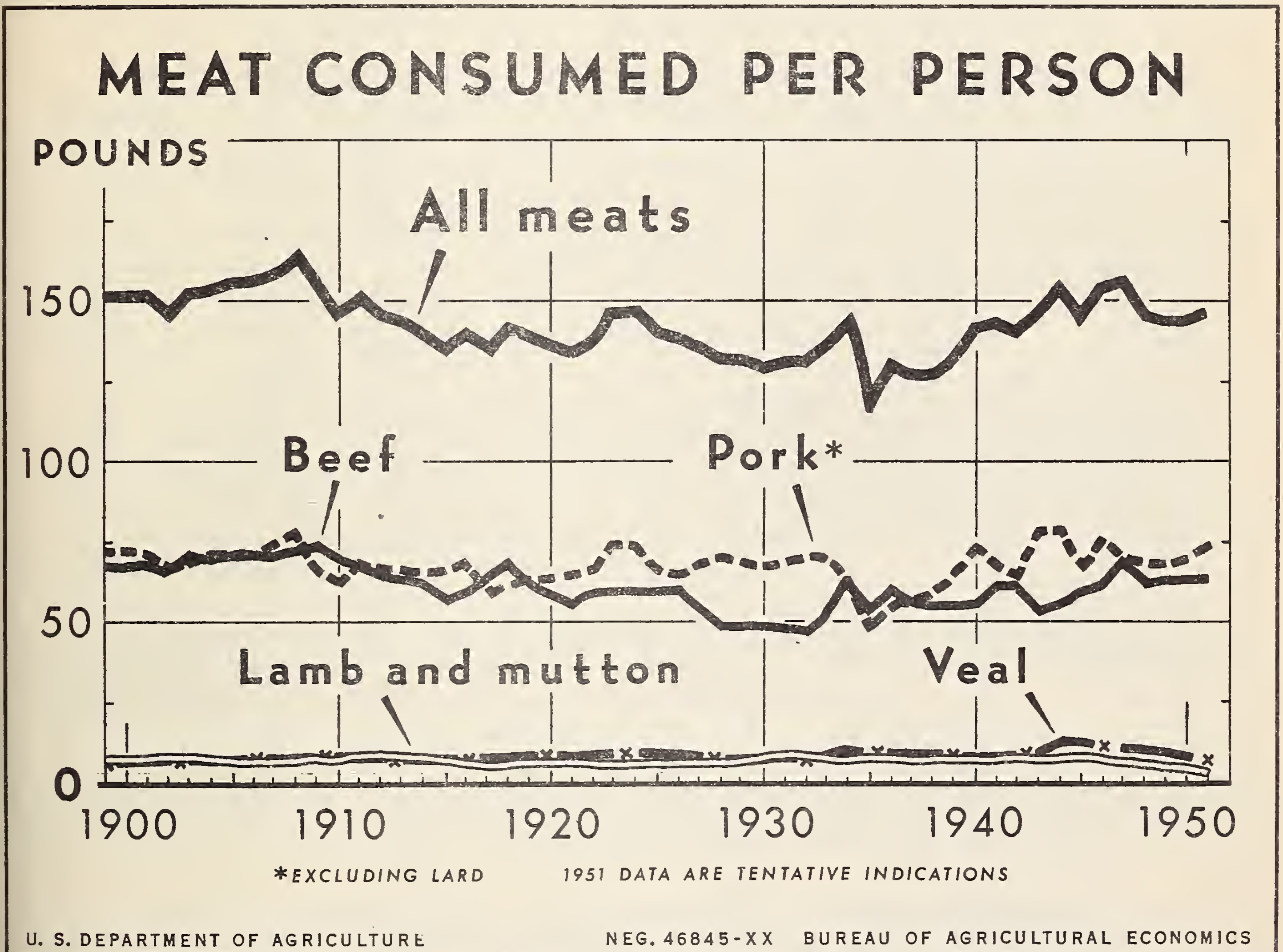
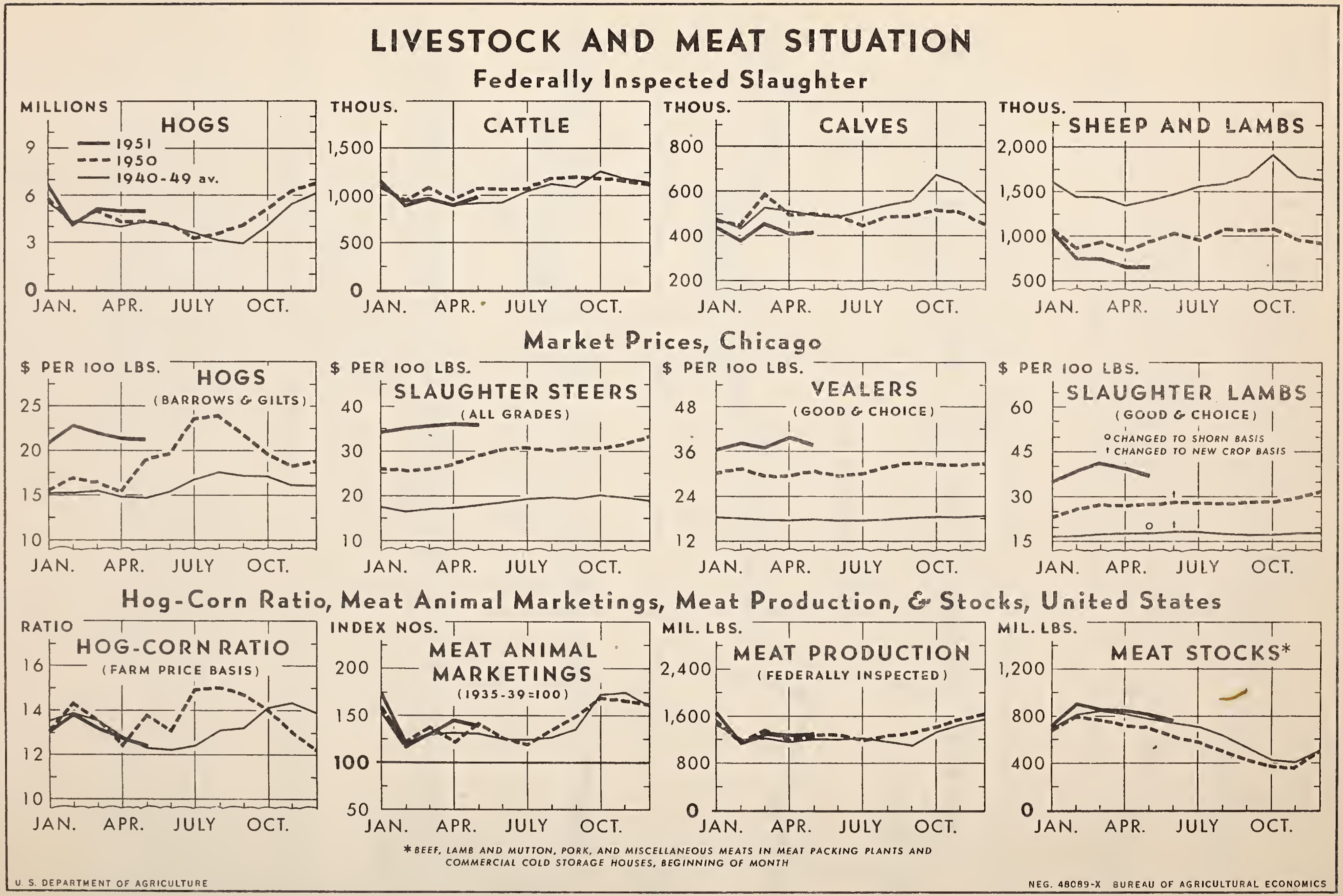


More pork is being consumed per person this year than last. Beef consumption has been lower to date but may about equal last year in the second half. Consumption of veal and of lamb and mutton has been smaller than last year and will likely remain smaller.

Meat consumption per person was steady at about 144 pounds annually from 1948 to 1950. In the first half of 1951 it was a little less than that annual rate (corrected for seasonal), but in the second half may be a little more. The 1951 total may reach 146 pounds.


LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION
Federally Inspected Slaughter
MILLIONS
HOGS
1951
1950
1940-49 av.
THOUS.
CATTLE
THOUS.
CALVES
THOUS.
SHEEP AND LAMBS
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
Market Prices, Chicago
$ PER 100 LBS.
HOGS
(BARROWS & GILTS)
$ PER 100 LBS.
SLAUGHTER STEERS
(ALL GRADES)
$ PER 100 LBS.
VEALERS
(GOOD & CHOICE)
$ PER 100 LBS.
SLAUGHTER LAMBS
(GOOD & CHOICE)
o CHANGED TO SHORN BASIS
† CHANGED TO NEW CROP BASIS
Hog-Corn Ratio, Meat Animal Marketings, Meat Production, & Stocks, United States
RATIO
HOG-CORN RATIO
(FARM PRICE BASIS)
INDEX NOS.
MEAT ANIMAL MARKETINGS
(1935-39=100)
MIL. LBS.
MEAT PRODUCTION
(FEDERALLY INSPECTED)
MIL. LBS.
MEAT STOCKS*
* BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON, PORK, AND MISCELLANEOUS MEATS IN MEAT PACKING PLANTS AND COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE HOUSES, BEGINNING OF MONTH
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 48089-X BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, June 28, 1951

SUMMARY

Hog production is still increasing. The 1951 spring pig crop was 63.8 millions, 7 percent more than last year, and a 1951 fall pig crop of 42 millions, up 3 percent from last year, was indicated by farmers' intentions on June 1. A 1951 total crop of nearly 106 million pigs would be 5 percent larger than the 1950 crop of 100.5 million and the second largest crop on record. The annual pig crop has increased each year since 1946, when 83 million pigs were saved.

Abundant feed supplies, coupled with strong demand for meat, is largely responsible for the uptrend in hog production. Although feed supplies are still large, this year for the first time in three years more corn is being used than was produced, and the carry-over reserve is being reduced. The price of corn is higher than in several years, and the hog-corn price ratio this spring has been lower than in either last year or two years ago though still above average. This gradual tightening of the feed supply and reduction of the hog-corn price ratio largely accounts for the rather small gain of 3 percent farmers plan for the fall pig crop.

Pork production in January-June was about 9 percent above the same period last year. A 5 to 10 percent larger production is expected this summer than last, and a similar increase over a year earlier may continue when hog marketings begin this fall from the spring pig crop. Not until March of next year, when pork production will be governed by the size of the 1951 fall crop, will the increase be less.

Beef production in the first half of 1951 was around 6 percent less than the previous year, but in the second half it is expected to rise above a year earlier. A continued gain is likely next year.

Cattle marketings increased in the latter part of June after dipping to a low in the week ending June 9. Marketings may continue somewhat variable in weeks and months ahead. They are expected to be larger in July than in June.

Cattle prices declined somewhat in June. Prices at Chicago in late June for the top grades were considerably below the May average, but for the lower grades were close to the average for May.

Hog prices advanced seasonally in June, and a further rise is likely. However, the total seasonal increase will probably be less than usual because of the ceiling prices on pork.

In a 1-month extension of the Defense Production Act of 1950, authority was given for continuing in July the price and slaughter controls on livestock and meat that were in effect the last of June.

Table 1.- Number of sows farrowing, pigs saved and pigs saved per litter, spring and fall pig crops, United States and by regions, average 1937-41, annual 1943-51

Year	North Atlantic	North Central East	North Central West	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	SPRING PIG CROP						
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
	Sows farrowing						
1937-41 av.	140	2,016	3,417	580	1,069	312	7,534
1943	210	2,947	5,997	818	1,686	516	12,174
1944	198	2,416	4,301	772	1,227	332	9,246
1945	154	2,129	4,111	620	1,024	260	8,298
1946	144	2,169	3,876	639	1,027	254	8,109
1947	157	2,313	4,266	670	1,003	243	8,652
1948	148	2,113	3,761	653	1,019	270	7,964
1949	161	2,412	4,395	688	1,125	273	9,054
1950	140	2,582	4,654	717	1,135	245	9,473
1951 1/	147	2,647	4,923	765	1,125	266	9,873
	Pigs saved						
1937-41 av.	886	12,961	21,472	3,377	6,157	1,948	46,801
1943	1,304	18,252	36,899	4,720	9,907	3,141	74,223
1944	1,316	15,193	25,568	4,482	7,162	2,033	55,754
1945	1,000	14,176	25,756	3,635	6,003	1,619	52,189
1946	984	14,559	25,324	3,779	6,130	1,616	52,392
1947	1,019	14,278	26,031	3,956	5,992	1,526	52,802
1948	985	14,066	24,348	3,969	6,212	1,686	51,266
1949	1,092	16,034	28,340	4,215	6,996	1,749	58,426
1950	904	16,357	29,465	4,478	7,058	1,539	59,801
1951 1/	987	17,386	31,934	4,777	7,036	1,698	63,818
	Pigs saved per litter						
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
1937-41 av.	6.32	6.45	6.30	5.82	5.76	6.24	6.22
1943	6.21	6.19	6.15	5.77	5.88	6.09	6.10
1944	6.63	6.29	5.94	5.81	5.84	6.12	6.03
1945	6.52	6.66	6.27	5.87	5.86	6.22	6.29
1946	6.79	6.71	6.53	5.91	5.97	6.35	6.46
1947	6.49	6.17	6.10	5.90	5.97	6.27	6.10
1948	6.63	6.66	6.47	6.08	6.10	6.24	6.44
1949	6.80	6.65	6.45	6.13	6.22	6.39	6.45
1950	6.46	6.34	6.33	6.25	6.22	6.27	6.31
1951 1/	6.74	6.57	6.49	6.24	6.25	6.39	6.46
	FALL PIG CROP						
	Sows farrowing						
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
1937-41 av.	127	1,471	1,480	507	963	254	4,802
1943	220	2,247	2,463	771	1,454	410	7,565
1944	135	1,536	1,544	552	914	201	4,882
1945	139	1,705	1,848	558	976	200	5,426
1946	120	1,515	1,446	589	883	160	4,713
1947	119	1,566	1,534	598	908	182	4,907
1948	125	1,631	1,704	575	923	200	5,158
1949	122	1,849	1,968	605	981	201	5,726
1950	117	2,015	2,232	609	967	177	6,117
1951 2/	124	2,032	2,411	648	957	202	6,374
	Pigs saved						
1937-41 av.	844	9,756	9,400	3,051	5,769	1,608	30,428
1943	1,445	14,489	15,469	4,696	8,917	2,568	47,584
1944	909	10,164	9,782	3,276	5,500	1,274	30,905
1945	919	11,224	11,761	3,401	6,007	1,281	34,593
1946	808	10,194	9,574	3,597	5,382	993	30,548
1947	822	10,258	9,760	3,668	5,668	1,169	31,345
1948	864	11,066	11,280	3,591	5,834	1,286	33,921
1949	827	12,250	12,871	3,759	6,242	1,313	37,262
1950	806	13,597	15,008	3,836	6,268	1,142	40,657
1951 2/							42,000
	Pigs saved per litter						
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
1937-41 av.	6.63	6.63	6.34	6.02	5.99	6.31	6.33
1943	6.56	6.45	6.28	6.09	6.13	6.26	6.29
1944	6.71	6.62	6.35	5.94	6.02	6.35	6.33
1945	6.63	6.58	6.36	6.10	6.15	6.41	6.38
1946	6.76	6.73	6.62	6.11	6.10	6.23	6.48
1947	6.88	6.55	6.36	6.13	6.24	6.45	6.39
1948	6.90	6.78	6.62	6.25	6.32	6.42	6.58
1949	6.80	6.62	6.54	6.22	6.36	6.55	6.51
1950	6.89	6.75	6.72	6.30	6.48	6.48	6.65
1951 2/							6.60

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Number indicated to farrow from breeding intentions as of June 1, 1951; average number of pigs per litter adjusted for trend used to calculate indicated number of pigs saved.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Spring Pig Crop Up 7 Percent

The 1951 spring pig crop was 63.8 million head, 7 percent larger than the 1950 crop. It was the largest spring crop for a peacetime year and second only to the wartime 1943 crop. Four percent more sows farrowed than in 1950, and the average size of litter increased from 6.31 pigs last year to 6.46 pigs this year. Weather in the Corn Belt at the time of peak farrowings was a little more favorable this year than last.

The spring crop was about the same as had been indicated by farmers' intentions last December.

Farrowings were early again this year. A larger percentage of the spring litters came in December, January, and February this year than last. The percentage in March was down from a year earlier, and the total of 50.2 percent for the 4 months December through March was about the same as a year earlier but above the prewar average of 46.3 percent for those months.

Fall Pig Crop Promises to be 3 Percent Above Last Fall

Farmers intentions on June 1 were for 4 percent more sows to farrow this fall than last. At an average size of litter adjusted for trend, the fall crop would be 42.0 million, 3 percent more than last fall.

This is the fifth successive year of increase in hog production. The 1951 total pig crop of 105.8 million now in prospect is almost 23 million head or 28 percent larger than the 1946 crop. The biggest jump in the annual crop was the 12 percent increase which followed the all-time record 1948 corn crop of 3,682 million bushels.

There are signs that hog production will soon level off. More than a third of the increase in the 1951 spring pig crop resulted from larger litters. Numbers of sows farrowing in both 1951 crops combined may be up 4 percent from last year. This increase is less than the 6 percent in 1950 and 13 percent in 1949. Moreover, the 3 percent gain in prospect for the 1951 fall pig crop is much smaller than the 9 percent gain last fall.

Abundant Feed Supplies Big Factor in Rising Hog Production

Following harvest of the 1948 crops feed supplies were abundant for the livestock on farms. Demand for meat and other livestock products was strong. The hog-corn price ratio was favorable for hog production.

The corn crops of 1949 and 1950, though very large, were smaller than the 1948 crop. Meanwhile livestock production has increased and livestock numbers are now more nearly in line with the feed supply. In fact, the use of corn in the 1950-51 feeding year is estimated at about 3.3 million bushels, 200 million bushels more than were produced in 1950. As a result the carry-over will be lowered from the 860 million bushels last October to about 650 to 700 million bushels next October.

Table 2.- Number of sows farrowing and percentage distribution by months, spring season, United States, average 1937-41 and annual 1947-51

Year	Dec. 1/	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
	Number of sows farrowing						
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
1937-41 av.	290.	409	791	1,999	2,605	1,440	7,534
1947	301	393	914	2,475	3,063	1,506	8,652
1948	263	367	762	2,150	2,874	1,548	7,964
1949	303	467	988	2,623	3,090	1,583	9,054
1950	272	451	1,139	2,884	3,151	1,576	9,473
1951	315	525	1,292	2,822	3,164	1,755	9,873
	Percentage of total sows farrowing						
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1937-41 av.	3.9	5.4	10.5	26.5	34.6	19.1	100.0
1947	3.5	4.5	10.6	28.6	35.4	17.4	100.0
1948	3.3	4.6	9.6	27.0	36.1	19.4	100.0
1949	3.3	5.2	10.9	29.0	34.1	17.5	100.0
1950	2.9	4.8	12.0	30.4	33.3	16.6	100.0
1951	3.2	5.3	13.1	28.6	32.0	17.8	100.0

1/ December of preceding year.

Prices of corn have increased substantially since a year ago. The average price received by farmers in mid-May this year was $1.64 per bushel, 30 cents or 22 percent more than in May 1950. Hog prices also are higher than last year, but by a smaller percentage. The $20.40 per 100 pounds received by farmers in mid-May was $2.10 or 11 percent above a year before. The hog-corn ratio in May thus was down to 12.4, still above the long-run average but less than the 13.7 in May last year and 14.7 in May 1949.

1951 Feed Grain Crops Important to Future Hog Production

Production of hogs as well as other grain-consuming livestock can continue at its present high level or expand further only if feed crops are large. This is true despite the sizable carry-overs of corn and other feed grains that will remain on hand this fall. In order to encourage feed grain production, an acreage guide of 90 million acres of corn was announced by the Department of Agriculture this spring. The first report on the acreage and condition of the crop will be made July 10.

A big corn crop in 1951 might result in a larger fall pig crop than now expected, and would be favorable for a larger 1952 spring crop. A small 1951 corn crop would have opposite effects.

Hog Slaughter to Continue Above Last Year

Hog slaughter in June was seasonally smaller than in May but substantially larger than in June last year. Preliminary weekly data for June inspected slaughter indicate an increase of around 10 percent over

June 1950. June hog slaughter included substantially more barrows and gilts than were slaughtered in June last year but probably fewer sows. The seasonal increase in sow marketings has been slower this summer than in either of the last two. Receipts of sows at 7 markets in the three weeks ending June 23 were 13 percent less than a year earlier.

Greater numbers of sows and of barrows and gilts are likely to be slaughtered this summer than last and pork production may be 5 to 10 percent larger. In addition, cold storage holdings of pork are up from last year--on June 1 they were 120 million pounds or 24 percent larger. The quantity of pork in cold storage is usually reduced greatly during the summer. With more pork both from current production and from storage, supplies of pork will continue considerably larger this summer than a year ago.

Pork supplies next fall will again show a considerable gain over last year. They will increase seasonally starting in September, when marketings begin from the 1951 spring pig crop. Pork production during the fall and winter season will be up about in proportion to the 7 percent increase in the spring pig crop.

If the 1951 fall pig crop turns out as now indicated, pork production during the marketing season for that crop in the spring and summer of 1952 will be only moderately larger than in those seasons this year.

Hog Prices Rise Seasonally in June

Prices of barrows and gilts at 7 markets at the end of June were about $1.00 per 100 pounds higher than at the beginning of the month. A further rise in hog prices is likely. The total seasonal increase may nevertheless be a little less than usual, because it will be limited by the price ceiling on pork. Retail and wholesale ceilings on pork were imposed last January 27. They are the highest prices charged by each dealer for volume sales during the December 19-January 26 base period.

Prices of hogs have not been put under control.

Cattle Slaughter Dips, Then Rises in June; Prices Decline Moderately

Cattle slaughter fell off sharply the week ending June 9, the first week in the accounting period for compliance by packers with the overall cattle price ceiling. Slaughter increased later in the month but continued below last year. (Table 3.)

Price changes under the new ceiling limitations were moderate. Prices of Prime steers at Chicago in late June were $1.50 per 100 pounds below their May average, but declines for lower grades were generally less. However, prices for all kinds of cattle in June were below their highest points reached in late winter or early spring.

Prices of cattle are controlled indirectly through a limit on the total cost packers may pay for all their purchases within an accounting period. The maximum cost for each packer is computed by applying wholesale ceiling prices to his carcasses as they actually grade, weigh, and dress out.

Cattle prices at Chicago under the ceiling limitations were somewhat higher than the representative ceiling-equivalent prices computed by the Office of Price Stabilization. Choice steers and heifers, for instance, averaged about $35.50 per 100 pounds at Chicago in June, compared with the $34.20 ceiling-equivalent price derived from an assumed dressing yield of 59 percent. (Table 4.)

The estimated ceiling-equivalent prices were derived from wholesale ceilings on beef by use of assumed average dressing percentages. Insofar as cattle of each grade dress out on the average to a higher percentage than was assumed by OPS, prices higher than the estimates are permitted.

Moreover, the freight allowance in the ceiling pricing formulae will sometimes permit relatively high prices for cattle slaughter in regions outside the Western Corn Belt. In the wholesale ceiling price on carcass beef there is, for most regions, an allowance for the freight rate from Omaha plus 15 percent (in the West, from Denver). As converted to the live cattle price, this freight differential is somewhat more than the price difference that usually prevails.

Table 3 .- Cattle slaughter and market prices, by weeks, April-June 1951

Week ended	Number cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection	Price of cattle for slaughter, Chicago, per 100 pounds: Steers, Choice 1/	Heifers, Choice 600-800 pounds	Cows: Commercial	Cows: Utility	Price of Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City, per 100 pounds
	1,000 head	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
April 7	211	36.27	35.18	28.28	26.00	37.25
April 14	212	36.81	35.90	28.78	26.18	37.85
April 21	217	36.96	35.95	29.10	26.58	38.00
April 28	221	37.52	36.50	29.12	26.55	38.25
May 5	232	36.57	35.18	28.18	25.58	36.20
May 12	205	36.60	35.55	28.12	25.28	36.00
May 19	232	36.24	35.58	28.95	25.65	35.75
May 26	218	36.79	35.92	29.62	26.42	36.12
June 2	202	36.74	35.88	29.69	26.50	36.31
June 9	155	35.76	35.25	29.10	25.48	36.02
June 16	155	35.96	35.25	29.30	25.55	36.00
June 23	188	35.44	34.68	29.32	25.08	35.50
June 30	188	35.57	34.58	28.58	24.42	35.50

1/ Corn Belt steers sold out of first hands.
Compiled from Market News, Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 4.- Approximate live-cattle equivalent at Chicago of ceiling prices on carcass beef at wholesale announced for June and August 1/

Month of announced ceiling	Ceiling-equivalent price per 100 pounds, by grade					
	Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Canner and Cutter
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
June-July	37.00	34.20	31.50	27.30	21.80	19.50
August-September	35.50	32.70	30.00	26.00	21.60	19.50
October and later	Reduction reported as average of 4 1/2 percent. No price data announced.					

1/ Average for steers, heifers, cows and stags as derived from announced Chicago wholesale ceiling prices at the following dressing yields for the 6 grades starting with Prime: 62, 59, 56, 53, 47, 43.
This table corrects two errors in Table 1 of this Situation for May 1951

It is of course possible that in paying the relatively high prices in June some slaughterers exceeded their cost limits.

Cattle Slaughter to be Larger in July; Legislation still an Influence

Price control regulations and legislative developments will continue to influence cattle marketings and slaughter. The Defense Production Act of 1950, the authority for controls, was extended on June 30 for the month ending July 31. The temporary measure does not affect the status of the rollbacks in prices of beef and cattle scheduled for August 1 and October 1. The rollbacks can be carried out only if authorized by new legislation.

Cattle slaughter in July is expected to be larger than in June. It will include some cattle that were held off the market during the weeks of very small slaughter in early June.

Cattle Slaughter in Second Half of 1951 Likely to Exceed Year Earlier

It is likely that more cattle will be slaughtered in the second half of 1951 than in the same period of 1950. However, there is considerable uncertainty as to the most probable total size of second-half slaughter. The rate of slaughter to date this year indicates that a very great number of cattle are being withheld for a further increase in herds. It is possible that cattle slaughter will not show as much increase in the latter part of 1951 as seemed likely earlier in the year, and that a very substantial number of cattle will be added to inventories next January 1.

If cattle and calf slaughter in the second half of the year should be no larger than a year before, inventories could rise by as many as 6 1/2 to 7 million head. With as many as 1 million more slaughtered, inventories could go up 5 1/2 to 6 million. In 1950, cattle inventories were increased 4 million head.

It appears that most of the reduction in cattle slaughter this spring compared with last represents more young cattle retained on range and pasture. Marketings of fed cattle from the heart of the feeding region have been fairly large. In both May and June, salable receipts of cattle were a higher percentage of the previous year at Chicago, Omaha and Sioux City than at any other of the principal markets. Marketings were particularly low at Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Kansas City, and St. Louis. Data for Federally inspected plants show that cow slaughter this year has nearly equaled last year. Hence, most of the increase in cattle withheld to date compared with last year are probably heifers kept for breeding and both calves and yearling steers kept for growth on forage before sale for slaughter or grain feeding.

More Cattle on Pastures in Blue Stem and Flint Hills

The Blue Stem - Osage Pastures of Kansas and Oklahoma account for some of the extra cattle on pasture this year. Those regions received about 10 percent more cattle and calves during the 1951 spring season than in the spring of 1950. Also, 7 percent more cattle wintered over than a year earlier. Cattle have made good gains there after a delayed start.

The large receipts of cattle and calves resulted from a strong demand for pastures from the dry areas of the Southwest. The cattle coming in consisted of a smaller proportion of aged steers than in past years, with a larger proportion of cows and calves and young cattle.

Present indications are that the marketings of pasture cattle will be later than usual. The peak movement is usually in August.

Extension of Defense Act Permits Few New Ceilings, no Rollbacks, during July

The extension of the Defense Production Act of 1950 continued for July the authority for all price and slaughter controls that were in effect the last of June. No rollbacks of existing ceilings and no new ceilings are permitted, with the exception of ceilings on products made from agricultural commodities that become newly eligible for ceilings because their prices rose from below parity to above parity

Slaughter Quotas Announced for July

Slaughter quotas for July were set by OPS at 90 percent of the July 1950 slaughter for cattle, 85 percent for calves, 85 percent for sheep and lambs, and 105 percent for hogs. Federally inspected slaughterers are allowed as much as an additional 15 percent quota on cattle and hogs if necessary in

order to fill military contracts for beef and pork. The additional allowance can be used to the extent that the quantity of meat contracted for delivery to the military services this year exceeds the quantity delivered in the same period last year.

Up to 5 percent of slaughter quotas that are unused by a slaughterer in one month may be carried over by him to the next month, but no longer.

Table 5.- Slaughter of meat animals under Federal inspection by regions, and receipts at 12 major markets, May 1951 as percentage of May 1950

Region in market	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Hogs
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
	Slaughter under Federal Inspection			
North Atlantic	92	82	97	111
South Atlantic	80	87	--	113
East North Central	87	95	52	115
West North Central	94	81	62	115
South Central	80	70	51	109
Mountain	95	50	67	107
Pacific	101	61	84	114
United States	92	83	70	114
	Salable market receipts			
Chicago	93	81	57	109
Cincinnati	73	82	63	104
Denver	90	71	30	92
Fort Worth	61	61	31	85
Indianapolis	75	65	100	105
Kansas City	79	42	53	112
Oklahoma City	53	50	104	102
Omaha	105	46	45	131
St. Joseph	92	56	47	124
St. Louis NSY	83	82	28	111
Sioux City	96	73	72	114
S. St. Paul	92	109	49	118
Total	89	80	40	113

In a release of May 24, the OPS explained that slaughter quotas are set so as to "distribute livestock coming to market equitably among registered slaughterers". "--- they do not limit --- the total quantity of livestock that may be marketed ---." The agency pointed out that it would raise quotas during a month if market supplies should be sufficiently large. It would do so if necessary in areas of particularly heavy marketings.

Slaughter quotas are intended to distribute meat through customary channels in a normal proportion to total supplies. They also are intended to have a price-stabilization effect, inasmuch as restrictions on numbers to be slaughtered serve to reduce upward pressure on prices.

Much Regional Difference in Livestock Marketings and Slaughter Compared with year Ago

Both marketings and slaughter of meat animals have been relatively larger compared with a year earlier in some regions than others. Slaughter by regions has varied less from last year than has marketings, yet cattle slaughter in May was as much as 101 percent of May 1950 in the Pacific region and as little as 80 percent in the South Atlantic and South Central regions. (Table 5) High percentages are possible in instances under the slaughter control program because of allowances for military contracts and carryovers of unused quotas.

At the least, variations in regional supply of livestock compared with earlier patterns are a handicap to equitable distribution of meat.

Meat Consumption Per Person in First Half of 1951 Below Last Year

Less meat was consumed per person in the first half of 1951 than in the same period of 1950. In the first quarter, the reduction was 1.4 pounds or about 4 percent. It was distributed among beef, veal, and lamb. Pork consumption per person was the same in the first quarter of this year as last. (Table 6.)

Meat consumption per person in the second quarter this year was probably close to that of a year earlier. Pork consumption per person in the second quarter was larger than last year. However, less beef, veal, and lamb was consumed than last year. Beef consumption was less than had been expected because the announcements on price controls resulted in delaying some marketings of cattle until the third quarter.

Table 6.- Meat consumption per person by quarter year, 1950 and 1951

Quarter	Beef		Veal		Lamb and mutton		Pork exl. lard		All meat	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Jan.-Mar.	15.6	14.6	1.9	1.6	1.0	0.9	18.5	18.5	37.0	35.6
Apr.-June	15.7	---	1.9	---	1.0	---	16.6	---	35.2	---
July-Sept.	15.9	---	2.1	---	1.0	---	15.0	---	34.0	---
Oct.-Dec.	15.8	---	2.0	---	1.0	---	18.7	---	37.5	---
Year	63.0	---	7.9	---	4.0	---	68.8	---	143.7	---

Table 7.- Meat consumption per person, by kind of meat, United States, 1899-1951

(Data for cover page chart)

Year	Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork 1/	Total meat	Year	Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork 1/	Total meat
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds		Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1899	67.2	5.2	6.5	71.8	150.7	1925	59.1	8.5	5.2	66.3	139.1
1900	67.1	5.2	6.5	71.9	150.7	1926	59.8	8.1	5.4	63.7	137.0
1901	67.9	5.4	7.0	70.8	151.1	1927	54.1	7.3	5.3	67.3	134.0
1902	65.0	6.0	7.1	66.7	144.8	1928	48.4	6.4	5.5	70.5	130.8
1903	70.9	6.1	6.9	68.2	152.1	1929	49.3	6.3	5.6	69.2	130.4
1904	69.6	6.0	6.5	70.6	152.7						
1905	71.3	6.6	6.3	71.0	155.2	1930	48.6	6.4	6.7	66.6	128.3
1906	71.3	7.0	6.3	71.0	155.6	1931	48.3	6.6	7.1	67.9	129.9
1907	70.6	7.2	6.3	74.1	158.2	1932	46.4	6.5	7.0	70.3	130.2
1908	72.1	7.2	6.3	77.7	163.3	1933	51.2	7.1	6.7	70.3	135.3
1909	73.5	7.2	6.7	66.4	153.8	1934	63.5	9.3	6.3	64.0	143.1
						1935	52.9	8.5	7.2	48.1	116.7
1910	69.8	7.1	6.4	51.8	145.1	1936	60.1	8.3	6.6	54.8	129.8
1911	67.9	7.0	7.3	68.4	150.6	1937	54.8	8.6	6.6	55.4	125.4
1912	64.0	6.9	7.6	66.2	144.7	1938	54.0	7.6	6.8	57.8	126.2
1913	62.8	6.2	7.2	66.3	142.5	1939	54.4	7.5	6.6	64.3	132.8
1914	61.5	5.7	7.1	64.6	138.9						
1915	56.0	5.8	6.0	66.1	133.9	1940	54.7	7.4	6.6	73.0	141.7
1916	58.4	6.4	5.8	68.4	139.0	1941	60.5	7.6	6.8	67.9	142.8
1917	64.2	7.1	4.4	58.5	134.2	1942	60.8	8.2	7.2	63.3	139.5
1918	68.0	7.2	4.7	60.6	140.5	1943	52.9	8.2	6.4	78.5	146.0
1919	61.0	7.8	5.6	63.4	137.8	1944	55.3	12.4	6.6	79.2	153.5
						1945	59.0	11.8	7.3	66.3	144.4
1920	58.6	7.9	5.4	63.1	135.0	1946	61.3	9.9	6.6	75.6	153.4
1921	55.1	7.5	6.1	64.3	133.0	1947	69.1	10.7	5.4	69.8	155.0
1922	58.6	7.7	5.1	65.3	136.7	1948	62.6	9.4	5.0	68.4	145.4
1923	59.2	8.1	5.3	73.7	146.3	1949	63.5	8.7	4.1	67.6	143.9
1924	59.1	8.5	5.2	73.5	146.3						
						1950	63.0	7.9	4.0	68.8	143.7
						1951 2/	62	7.2	3.5	73	146 -147

1/ Excluding lard.
2/ Tentative indications.

Total production of meat was somewhat larger in the first half of 1951 than last year. Imports of meat--which are mainly beef--also were larger. However, military takings were substantially greater than a year earlier. This together with the increase in civilian population resulted in a lower average consumption per person.

Consumption Per Person in Second Half Likely to Exceed Last Year

More meat per person will probably be consumed in the second half of 1951 than in 1950. Pork supplies will be substantially larger and the most likely prospect is for larger beef supplies also.

The trend toward increasing cattle herds is cutting down calf slaughter this year. Veal supplies per person will likely remain below 1950.

Inventory numbers of sheep and lamb also are apparently being increased this year. Consequently, the supply of lamb per person will continue smaller than in 1950. Consumption of lamb, already a record low of 4.0 pounds per person in 1950, may drop to 3.5 pounds in 1951.

Posting Not Required on Beef Prices in Non-Kosher Retail Stores Until August 1

Official OPS lists for ceiling prices on beef at Kosher retail stores were required to be posted by June 11, but lists for all other stores, previously due in July, are now not called for until August 1. Delays in printing cards caused postponement of the original order for other than Kosher stores.

Nevertheless, labeling of beef in trays is required. In order to prevent substitution of lower grade meat, identical beef cuts having different ceiling prices because of difference in grade are required to be kept in separate trays and the ceiling price for each display must be separately indicated.

Dollars-and-Cents Ceilings for Veal, Pork, Lamb, and Sausage Being Drafted

The OPS announced in early June that regulations are being drafted to put dollars-and-cents ceilings on veal, pork, lamb, and sausage "as speedily as possible." Veal was apparently due to receive attention first. Specific proposals on wholesale price ceilings for veal had been prepared and those in retail veal ceiling were in process.

During July, any issuance of dollars-and-cents ceilings would be subject to the measure extending the Defense Production Act, which permits no reduction in ceiling prices.

On June 26, the OPS fixed the ceilings on spring lamb at the same ceiling price as had been in effect on winter lamb. The lamb ceiling is determined by each dealer's prices between December 19 and January 26.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Tables 8, 9, and 10 present revised data on commercial slaughter and meat production for 1950. They correct tables published in the statistical appendix to this *Situation* for February 1951.

Table 8 .- Livestock slaughtered and meat produced under Federal inspection and in other commercial establishments, United States, by months 1950

Month	Cattle						Calves					
	Slaughter			Beef production			Slaughter			Veal production		
	Federally inspected	Other wholesale and retail	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Other wholesale and retail	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Other wholesale and retail	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Other wholesale and retail	Total commercial
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
January	1,102	412	1,514	592	188	780	465	337	802	50	37	87
February	939	358	1,297	510	166	676	443	339	782	44	36	80
March	1,082	403	1,485	589	186	775	586	405	991	56	40	96
April	959	364	1,323	526	168	694	494	341	835	50	37	87
May	1,075	410	1,485	585	189	774	496	353	849	54	39	93
June	1,066	397	1,463	571	182	753	485	330	815	57	40	97
July	1,070	404	1,474	570	184	754	443	324	767	56	41	97
August	1,184	432	1,616	632	197	829	484	354	838	65	43	108
September	1,196	423	1,619	640	192	832	488	346	834	65	42	107
October	1,169	419	1,588	623	191	814	515	356	871	64	41	105
November	1,151	405	1,556	611	183	794	505	339	844	58	40	98
December	1,110	371	1,481	602	171	773	446	299	745	48	34	82
Year	13,103	4,798	17,901	7,051	2,197	9,248	5,850	4,123	9,973	667	470	1,137

Month	Sheep and lambs						Hogs						All meat production excluding lard		
	Slaughter			Lamb and mutton production			Slaughter			Pork production excluding lard					
	Federally inspected	Other wholesale and retail	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Other wholesale and retail	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Other wholesale and retail	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Other wholesale and retail	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Other wholesale and retail	Total commercial
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
January	1,077	93	1,170	51	4	55	5,844	1,177	7,021	804	150	954	1,497	379	1,876
February	863	74	937	43	3	46	4,191	1,018	5,209	559	127	686	1,156	332	1,488
March	939	81	1,020	46	3	49	5,020	1,049	6,069	661	131	792	1,352	360	1,712
April	833	89	922	40	4	44	4,316	910	5,226	574	114	688	1,190	323	1,513
May	941	93	1,034	43	4	47	4,339	896	5,235	593	112	705	1,275	344	1,619
June	1,019	102	1,121	44	4	48	4,154	812	4,966	605	105	710	1,277	331	1,608
July	960	102	1,062	41	5	46	3,314	716	4,030	515	93	608	1,182	323	1,505
August	1,076	118	1,194	47	5	52	3,626	816	4,442	520	105	625	1,264	350	1,614
September	1,063	101	1,164	47	4	51	4,137	862	4,999	547	111	658	1,299	349	1,648
October	1,081	99	1,180	47	4	51	5,102	1,004	6,106	665	132	797	1,399	368	1,767
November	969	89	1,058	43	4	47	6,144	1,105	7,249	821	145	966	1,533	372	1,905
December	918	72	990	42	3	45	6,777	1,175	7,952	924	152	1,076	1,616	360	1,976
Year	11,739	1,113	12,852	534	47	581	56,964	11,540	68,504	7,788	1,477	9,265	16,040	4,191	20,231

Revises Table A-11 of the statistical appendix to the February 1951 issue of this Situation.

Table 9 .- Average live weight of livestock slaughtered under Federal inspection and in all commercial establishments, by months, 1950

Month	Cattle		Calves		Sheep and lambs		Hogs	
	Federally inspected	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Total commercial
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
January	993	958	196	196	100	100	247	242
February	1,000	964	181	185	104	103	239	234
March	995	960	170	173	103	102	234	231
April	991	956	181	186	100	99	238	234
May	985	953	193	198	95	95	245	240
June	974	945	209	213	90	90	264	258
July	973	942	226	225	91	91	278	269
August	974	943	241	232	93	93	259	252
September	983	949	241	231	93	93	233	230
October	988	954	225	218	93	93	230	228
November	998	963	214	214	95	94	237	235
December	1,017	983	200	202	97	96	245	241
Year	989	956	206	206	96	95	244	240

Revises table A-12 of the statistical appendix to the February 1951 issue of this Situation.

Table .- Meat and lard produced per head of livestock slaughtered under Federal inspection and in all commercial establishments, by months, 1950

Month	Beef		Veal		Lamb and mutton		Pork		Lard	
	Federally inspected	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Total commercial	Federally inspected	Total commercial
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
January	539.3	515.2	109.1	108.4	47.8	47.0	137.9	135.9	37.0	34.8
February	546.0	521.1	100.9	102.4	49.3	49.1	133.7	131.7	35.2	33.0
March	547.3	521.9	95.5	96.9	49.1	48.0	132.8	130.5	33.5	32.3
April	551.0	524.6	101.9	104.3	48.1	47.7	133.3	131.6	35.1	33.3
May	546.6	521.0	108.5	109.5	46.1	45.5	137.0	134.7	36.0	34.2
June	538.9	514.7	117.3	119.0	43.0	42.8	146.0	143.0	39.5	37.5
July	535.4	511.5	126.7	126.5	43.5	43.3	155.8	150.9	40.4	38.0
August	536.0	513.2	134.5	128.8	44.1	43.6	143.6	140.7	37.5	35.1
September	537.5	513.9	133.3	128.3	44.2	43.8	132.6	131.6	31.8	30.4
October	535.3	512.7	124.3	120.5	44.1	43.2	130.7	130.5	31.8	30.5
November	533.7	510.2	117.0	116.2	44.9	44.4	133.9	133.3	32.8	31.3
December	546.1	522.1	109.4	110.1	45.9	45.5	136.6	135.3	35.8	33.8
Year	540.8	516.6	114.7	114.0	45.7	45.2	137.0	135.2	35.4	33.5

Revises table A-13 of the statistical appendix to the February 1951 issue of this Situation.

Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.-May Av. 1950	Jan.-May Av. 1951	1950 May	1951 April	1951 May	1951 June
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers, slaughter 2/	Dollars per						
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	33.20	39.35	31.34	40.16	38.73	
Choice	do.	27.90	36.17	29.19	36.93	36.52	
Good	do.	(25.02	33.47	(27.10	34.49	34.03	
Commercial	do.	(	31.30	(	32.78	31.32	
Utility	do.	22.31	28.92	24.44	30.74	28.06	
All grades	do.	26.68	35.25	29.02	35.95	35.71	
Omaha, all grades	do.	25.29	34.06	27.64	34.76	34.17	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	25.43	34.06	27.99	34.79	34.21	
Cows, Chicago 2/							
Commercial	do.	19.90	27.42	22.48	28.92	28.91	
Utility	do.	17.35	25.11	19.41	26.33	25.88	
Canner and Cutter	do.	14.96	21.60	16.35	22.55	21.63	
Vealers, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	30.26	37.64	30.58	39.30	37.66	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City	do.	25.07	34.27	27.19	35.64	34.29	
Price received by farmers							
Beef cattle	do.	21.28	29.08	23.10	30.20	29.50	29.50
Veal calves	do.	24.34	32.94	25.60	33.90	33.20	33.40
Hogs							
Barrows and gilts							
Chicago							
160-180 pounds	do.	16.93	21.11	18.36	20.75	20.75	
180-200 pounds	do.	17.29	21.87	19.46	21.36	21.45	
200-220 pounds	do.	17.35	21.97	19.57	21.56	21.61	
220-240 pounds	do.	17.19	21.88	19.54	21.55	21.55	
240-270 pounds	do.	16.88	21.67	19.35	21.48	21.38	
270-300 pounds	do.	16.51	21.30	18.94	21.19	20.98	
All weights	do.	16.82	21.60	18.96	21.33	21.27	
Seven markets 3/	do.	16.31	21.29	19.01	21.02	20.89	
Sows, Chicago	do.	14.51	18.91	16.27	19.02	18.80	
Price received by farmers	do.	16.34	20.84	18.30	20.60	20.40	21.10
Hog-corn price ratio 4/							
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	12.3	12.2	12.8	11.9	12.0	
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	13.4	13.0	13.7	12.7	12.4	13.0
Sheep and lambs							
Sheep							
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	12.68	21.26	10.96	22.24	18.06	
Price received by farmers	do.	10.64	17.38	11.00	18.10	16.90	16.50
Lambs							
Slaughter, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	25.77	37.91	26.89	39.17	36.36	
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	5/25.12	6/33.62	—	—	—	
Price received by farmers	do.	23.50	33.04	24.70	34.30	32.60	31.70
All meat animals							
Index number price received by farmers							
(1910-14=100)		311	418	342	428	418	422
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per						
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds 2/	100 pounds	43.76	55.91	46.73	56.51	56.84	
Lamb carcass, Good, 30-40 pounds	do.	7/49.90	55.79	7/53.37	56.62	58.00	
Composite hog products, including lard							
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	18.44	23.49	20.44	22.74	23.91	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	25.32	32.25	28.06	31.22	32.83	
71.32 pounds fresh and cured	do.	21.48	26.39	23.39	25.91	26.25	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	30.12	37.00	32.80	36.33	36.81	
Retail, United States average	Cents						
Beef, Good grade	per pound	68.4	84.6	72.2	85.4	84.5	
Lamb	do.	66.4	75.1	70.7	76.0	77.5	
Pork, including lard	do.	37.0	45.0	39.3	45.1	45.1	
Index number meat prices (BLS)							
Wholesale (1926=100)		217.4	272.1	234.0	274.1	276.3	
Retail (1935-39=100)		225.0	270.7	238.4	272.5	272.4	

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1951.
2/ Grade names as used beginning January 1951.
3/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, and S. St. Paul.
4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
5/ Average of prices for January, February and March.
6/ Price for January only.
7/ Price of 45-50 pounds in each month except January.
8/ Index of retail meat prices, new weights.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meats 1/

Item	Unit	January-May 1950	January-May 1951	1950 May	1951 April	1951 May	1951 June
Meat animal marketings							
Index number (1935-39=100)		136	141	141	144	138	
Stocker and feeder shipments to							
8 Corn Belt States	1,000						
Cattle and calves	head	644	708	130	151	124	
Sheep and lambs	do.	582	737	157	157	258	
Slaughter under Federal inspection							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	do.	5,157	4,892	1,075	894	986	
Calves	do.	2,484	2,075	496	406	414	
Sheep and lambs	do.	4,654	3,850	941	657	657	
Hogs	do.	23,710	25,802	4,338	4,989	4,952	
Percentage sows	Percent	11	6	15	6	8	
Average live weight per head							
Cattle	Pounds	993	1,010	985	1,004	997	
Calves	do.	184	177	193	169	183	
Sheep and lambs	do.	101	102	95	104	100	
Hogs	do.	241	244	245	242	244	
Average production							
Beef, per head	do.	546	558	547	560	563	
Veal, per head	do.	103	100	109	97	104	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	48	49	46	50	48	
Pork, per head 2/	do.	135	136	137	135	135	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 2/	do.	56	56	56	56	55	
Lard, per head	do.	36	36	36	35	36	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight ..	do.	15	15	15	14	15	
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	2,801	2,718	585	499	552	
Veal	do.	254	206	54	39	43	
Lamb and mutton	do.	223	187	43	33	31	
Pork 2/	do.	3,191	3,488	593	672	665	
Lard	do.	840	924	156	173	180	
Total commercial slaughter 3/							
Number slaughtered	1,000						
Cattle	head	7,105	6,657	1,436	1,227	1,328	
Calves	do.	4,259	3,522	849	678	672	
Sheep and lambs	do.	5,083	4,163	1,034	720	722	
Hogs	do.	28,759	31,119	5,234	5,965	5,879	
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	3,699	3,562	774	658	716	
Veal	do.	443	358	93	67	71	
Lamb and mutton	do.	241	199	47	35	34	
Pork 2/	do.	3,825	4,163	705	795	782	
Lard	do.	965	1,053	179	196	204	
Cold storage stocks first of month							
Beef	do.	—	—	91	131	111	100
Veal	do.	—	—	8	8	7	6
Lamb and mutton	do.	—	—	8	8	5	5
Pork	do.	—	—	542	648	654	612
Total meat and meat products 4/	do.	—	—	749	906	892	834

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1950.
2/ Excludes lard.
3/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.
4/ Includes stocks of sausage and sausage room products, canned meats and canned meat products, and edible offals, in addition to the four meats listed.